

Senate Majority Committee Clerks

From: Mary Kay Relich <mkrelich@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2018 5:37 PM
To: Senate Majority Committee Clerks
Subject: Senate Bill 886

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Please share this with the Transportation Committee members. We have sent this via their online contact information, but in some cases the formatting was not preserved. We are in Florida and unable to attend the meeting on Thursday where this bill is being discussed.

Thanks in advance for your help!
Roger and Mary Kay Relich

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Michigan Senate Transportation Committee
Tom Casperson (R) Committee Chair, 38th District
Ken Horn (R) Vice Chair, 32nd District
Phil Pavlov (R) 25th District
Jim Marleau (R) 12th District
Ian Conyers (D) Minority Vice Chair, 4th District

Dear Senator Casperson, chair and Members of the Transportation Committee:

Roger and I would like to address the committee in regards to Senate Bill 886. We are currently in Florida and unable to make the upcoming committee meeting to discuss this bill.

We would like to share our background and experience with you prior to sharing our concerns for SB 866.

Roger Relich holds a Bachelor's degree in Biology from the University of Michigan, Master's in Science Education from Western Michigan University, a Specialist in Administration from Northern Michigan University and 7 years in a doctoral program in Educational Leadership minus the dissertation from Western Michigan University.

- Roger has 34 years of experience teaching high school and middle school science in addition to serving as a principal in three separate school districts.
- He has worked as a science consultant for the Kent County ISD and has taught Common Core and Smarter Balance Assessment principles throughout Michigan and Wisconsin.

- He was appointed to the National Curriculum Review Committee for implementing Applied Economics into the high school curriculum in Michigan. He was hired by the Junior Achievement organization to train teachers and principals in West Michigan on how to implement this program into their curriculum.
- Roger also served as a consultant to several industries, doing process capability studies on Amway's blow molding machines, as well as doing pH and specific gravity studies on their cosmetic products.
- He was hired by Ridgeview Stamping to write a program to get them certified in the ISO 9000 program and did communication training for Ridgeview Stamping executives.

Mary Kay Relich holds a Bachelor's in Science Education from Central Michigan University, Master's in Classroom Education from Central Michigan University, and has completed coursework towards a Specialist in Administration from Central Michigan University.

- Mary Kay has 30 years of experience teaching grades 5-8
- She also trained teachers throughout Michigan and Wisconsin in Common Core and Smarter Balanced Assessments through the Kent County ISD.
- Worked as a Gifted and Talented instructor and coordinator in two school districts.

Both Roger and Mary Kay received their education in Driver Education from Central Michigan University.

- Roger taught driver education for 20+ years, served as the Driver Education coordinator for a public school for 10+ years. During this time he developed and taught the curriculum for both Segment 1 and Segment 2 courses as well as organized the driving portion of the course.
- Roger and Mary Kay formed their own driving school and ran a successful driver education school for several years. Both taught Segment 1 including both classroom and behind the wheel instruction, and Segment 2 courses for 10+ years. After closing their school, both continued to teach driver education for other providers.
- Roger and Mary Kay taught successfully in the Instructor Preparation program for 7 years. We also helped train Instructor Preparation teachers for another major provider.
- Roger and Mary Kay were co-facilitators for the Future of Driver Education, an Ad Hoc committee formed by MDOS.
- At the request of Ruth Johnson, Secretary of State, Roger and Mary Kay were asked to meet in Lansing with members of the State Driver Education Section to discuss possible improvements to Driver Education Instruction generally and Instructor Preparation training for instructors specifically.

We continue to be active within the driver education community by writing professional development courses for instructors, writing curriculum, and articles for the driver education community through the MDTSEA newsletter. We have been active on the MDTSEA board for 15+ years and both are past presidents of the organization.

As you can see, we come to this committee with a wealth of background, and although our opinions are not those of MDTSEA, because the board has not had a chance to discuss and develop a position paper, we urge you to consider our concerns with this proposed legislation. Quality instructor education and training is the backbone of a quality driver education program; therefore it is an important component for helping to produce a safe teen driver!

SENATE BILL No. 886

March 6, 2018, Introduced by Senator CASPERSON and referred to the Committee on Transportation.

A bill to amend 2006 PA 384, entitled
 "Driver education provider and instructor act,"
 by amending section 23 (MCL 256.643).

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

Sec. 23. (1) A college or university or a person approved by the secretary of state may present a driver education instructor preparation program. A college, university, or person shall not offer to engage or engage in the activity of presenting a driver education instructor preparation program without the prior approval of the secretary of state.

(2) A college, university, or person may apply to the secretary of state for approval to conduct a driver education instructor preparation program. A college, university, or person

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seeking approval shall present satisfactory evidence to the secretary of state as prescribed by the secretary of state that the college's, university's, or person's proposed program meets the requirements of this section.

(3) The secretary of state shall review and approve a driver education instructor preparation program that meets the requirements of this section. The secretary of state shall give the college, university, or person requesting approval a written notice of the secretary of state's approval or denial, including the reason for any denial.

(4) The secretary of state shall prepare a driver education instructor preparation program guide as a model for how to conduct a driver education instructor preparation program. The model program guide shall identify the content **and acceptable delivery formats** of each course identified in subsection (7). [This clarifies that MDOS not only approves content, but also the format of delivery, as referenced in subsection (8)]

(5) Beginning September 1, 2007, a driver education instructor

17 preparation program shall consist of not less than 4 driver
18 education preparation courses.
19 (6) A college, university, or person seeking approval of a
20 driver education instructor preparation course shall present
21 evidence satisfactory to the secretary of state that the proposed
22 course meets the requirements of this section. The secretary of
23 state shall review a driver education instructor preparation course
24 and determine whether that course meets the requirements of this
25 act. The secretary of state shall prescribe the administration and
26 curriculum of a driver education instructor preparation course. The
27 secretary of state shall give the college, university, or person

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1 requesting approval written notice of the secretary of state's
2 approval or denial, including the reason for any denial.
3 (7) A driver education instructor preparation program shall
4 consist of not less than 4 driver education instructor preparation
5 courses. THE 3 COURSES DESCRIBED IN SUBDIVISIONS (A) THROUGH (C)
6 MAY BE OFFERED ONLINE ASYNCHRONOUSLY, AND THE PRACTICUM DESCRIBED
7 IN SUBDIVISION (D) MAY BE OFFERED SYNCHRONOUSLY. The 4 required
8 courses shall each concentrate on only 1 of the following concepts,
9 and all of the following concepts shall be covered in the minimum 4
10 courses required:

Course A Driver Task Analysis must be completed prior to taking courses B and C. Courses B and C may be taken simultaneously. (Synchronously and Asynchronously have very different meanings depending upon the situation. They can mean at the same time / not at the same time or online / in a regular classroom setting) Online completion of some work is appropriate, but students need the interaction with the instructor especially in Course C to satisfactorily complete these courses. We would not recommend more than a 50% online portion of any of the courses A, B, or C.

11 (a) Driver task analysis.

12 (b) Developing classroom and program knowledge. THIS

~~13 SUBDIVISION DOES NOT APPLY TO A TEACHER WHO HOLDS A VALID TEACHING~~

~~14 CERTIFICATE ISSUED UNDER THE REVISED SCHOOL CODE, 1976 PA 451, MCL~~

~~15 380.1 TO 380.1852, IF THAT TEACHER IS ABLE TO TEST OUT OF THE~~

~~16 COURSE AS APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE.~~

This course is not just about classroom knowledge; it is also about program knowledge, objectives and lessons specifically related to driver education. Though a classroom teacher may have an easier time completing this course, most of the material presented is new information. Another concern would be “who would develop such a test?” We urge you to review the ADTSEA 3.0 Curriculum Guide and the Michigan Curriculum Guide prior to making a determination on this section of the bill.

17 (c) Developing vehicle operation skills.

Courses A, B, and C must be successfully completed before beginning Course D. Course D should not be allowed in an online format as this is the “student teaching” portion of the course.

18 (d) Practicum.

19 (8) A driver education instructor preparation course MAY

20 DELIVER CONTENT IN EITHER A CLASSROOM OR AN ONLINE FORMAT, OR A

21 COMBINATION OF BOTH, AS ~~APPROVED~~ Prescribed in the Model Program Guide listed in Subsection (4) and Approved BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE, AND

22 shall consist of not less than ~~2 semester~~ 35 CONTACT hours per

23 course or the equivalent of not less than 3 semester hours per

24 course as approved REQUIRED by the secretary of state IN THE MODEL

25 CURRICULUM Guide DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (4). A driver education

26 instructor preparation course shall extend for not less than 3

27 weeks. ~~1 WEEK.~~—As noted above, no more than 50% of courses A, B, and C should be completed online. Course C must have an in person component since it is very difficult to teach someone how to react to driver errors online! The instructor must be ready to grab the wheel at any moment to prevent a crash and/or serious injury or damage. This is a skill that must be practiced in a vehicle. Course D, the practicum, is not appropriate for online instruction. The Mentor must be in the classroom/vehicle with the “Student Teacher” in order to monitor the quality of education being presented. We tried using videos to evaluate classroom and behind the wheel instruction with very poor results. The camera is usually focused on the instructor, but it is difficult to evaluate how the classroom is reacting to the instruction. In Behind the Wheel instruction, it is difficult to see if the student driver’s eyes are moving, what is the observer doing? It is almost impossible to truly see what is going on in the vehicle with everyone involved. If courses B and C are taken concurrently, this would shorten the time involved for completing the Certification, which we believe is one of the major concerns in making the changes to this legislation. ANSTSE (Association of National Stakeholders in

Traffic Safety Education) recommends a minimum of 35 hours per course for Instructor Preparation. Why would we want to move backwards when this organization was just here in Michigan reviewing our Driver Education standards?

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1 (9) An instructor who teaches a driver education instructor

2 preparation course shall meet the following requirements:

3 (a) Have a ~~master's~~ BACHELOR'S degree in education from an

4 accredited college or university ~~OR 4 YEARS IN CLASSROOM DRIVER~~

~~5 EDUCATION TEACHING EXPERIENCE IN THIS STATE, AS VERIFIED BY THE~~

~~6 SECRETARY OF STATE.~~

ADTSEA admits that it might be getting too difficult to find Master's degree candidates. We would agree that it is possible for a potential instructor to be successful with a Bachelor's degree in Education, however, to allow someone without a degree in Education to prepare Driver Education Instructors de-professionalizes teaching/education. This potential instructor also must provide proof of 4 years of successful teaching in Segment 1, Segment 2, as well as Behind the Wheel Instruction. To allow someone without a degree in education to prepare instructors for this very important course is ludicrous.

7 (b) Hold a valid driver education instructor certificate

8 issued by the secretary of state.

9 (c) Any other requirement the secretary of state determines is

10 necessary to determine instructor qualifications.

We would also recommend that the MDOS develop a Knowledge Test that must be successfully passed before gaining Instructor Certification. Such a test should contain information on the Michigan Vehicle Code, laws regulating driver education, and test questions from the Segment 1 and Segment 2 novice driver tests.

11 (10) A college, university, or person approved by the

12 secretary of state that offers a driver education instructor

13 preparation course shall include in the course registration

14 material information explaining the driver education instructor

15 qualifications required under this act.

16 (11) The secretary of state shall review each driver education

17 instructor preparation program approved under this section at least

18 once every 3 years.

19 (12) A driver education preparation course credit earned
20 through a college, university, or another entity in another state
21 may be accepted on the same basis as the equivalent credit earned
22 through a driver education instructor preparation program conducted
23 by a college or university or by a person approved by the secretary
24 of state, if approved by the secretary of state. A person seeking
25 approval of a driver education course credit earned in another
26 state shall present satisfactory evidence to the secretary of state
27 that the other state's course substantially meets the requirements

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1 of this state. The secretary of state shall review a driver
2 education preparation course credit earned in another state and
3 determine whether that course content meets the requirements of
4 this act. The secretary of state shall give the person a written
5 notice of the secretary of state's approval or denial, including
6 the reason for any denial.

7 (13) This section does not apply to an applicant for a driver
8 education instructor certificate that is limited to the truck
9 driver training classification.

10 Enacting section 1. This amendatory act takes effect 90 days
11 after the date it is enacted into law.

Sincerely,
Roger and Mary Kay Relich

